FORM B - BUILDING

15 oburn St HD

Form no.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Reading ss 192 Woburn St. ric Name Driginal Dwelling Present Dwelling ship: A Private individual Private organization Public

Original owner Needham Nichols

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1/2	A Tak	
(ga)	Charas	st: nes
o burn St		

Date 1850

Source Assessors valuation list Style Greek Revival Architect Exterior wall fabric Wood clapboard

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) Italianate porch east, 1873. South east ell added; fenestration first floor, east.

Moved Date

Approx. acreage 11,300 sq. ft.

Setting Faces north on Woburn St.

close to street behind

stone embankment.

Recorded by Architectu Associates OrganizationReading Historical

Commission Date November 1980

Date 6/82

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This three-bay, gable-end Greek Revival house has a front door to the northeast side, so that the long side is parallel to the street in the earlier Federal manner. Heavily pedimented, it has long sidelights and paneled pilasters.

An Italianate porch was added, probably in 1873, and a double door installed. This "modernization" is in harmony with the original stylistic features of the house.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

On the map of 1854, this house appears to have been the only dwelling on the south side of Woburn Street between Washington Street and Summer Avenue. Daniel Pratt, and later his son-in-law, Benjamin Boyce, owned what was called Holdens pasture: Pratt gave his name to Pratt Street. This Nichols house shows, on the map of 1875, as an island in the large property.

In 1910 the house became the property of the Sweetser family. Mollie Sweetser was well known for her leadership in many civic organizations. She was the first woman elected to the Reading Board of Selectmen, and served from 1929 to 1933. She was a representative to the Massachusetts State Legislature from 1933 to 1936. Percy N. Sweetser, her husband, was a local fuel dealer for 46 years.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1830 map no

1854 map N. Nichols (Needham)

1875 map N. Nichols

1889 map N. Nichols

Reading Chronicle, June 21, 1873
Reading Chronicle, June 10, 1959 obituary

1860 Valuation List

20M-2/80

4.25.5

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No:		
Property Name: 192	oburn	st.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) as part of the stylish Woburn Street neighborhood inhabited chiefly by executives and professionals; (2) for its connection with the locally important Nichols and Sweetser families, particularly selectman Mollie Sweetser; and (3) as an example of Greek Revival architecture updated during the Italianate period. It retains integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship, and feeling and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the Mational Register.

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#C-134 Map 50,	192 Woburn St. Lot 15			
1983 As	sessors Map			
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FORM B - BUILDING

NR: MRA Wolown St HD

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Area	Form no.
C	134

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

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TIME	oric Name				
1	Original Dwelling				
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STATE OF THE PARTY	rship: Private individual Private organization				
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7	Original owner N. Nichols '59.				

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to nearest and other buildings ures.

Date c. 1831-54
Source
Style Greek Revival
Architect Save Les name co
Exterior wall fabric Wood clapboard
Outbuildings Garage
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Major alterations (with dates) Italianate porch addition east. South-east egged to the ellell added, fenestration first floor east. Moved Date

Approx. acreage Under one acre

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Setting Faces north on Woburn Street Associates Organization Reading Historical Commission close to street behind

November 30, 1980 stone embankment Date

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WEST THE MECHOLE 'SH.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Map 1830 - no

" 1854 - N. Nichols

4 1875 - N. Nichols

1889 - N. Nichols Wadlin, Vol. I & II